

RESOLUTION

No. 2018-641

By Commissioner Palamara and Co-sponsored by Commissioners Anderson, Barone, Basham, Bell, Clark-Coleman, Haidous, Killeen, Marecki, Scott, Varga, Ware and Woronchak

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of residents and businesses of the Downriver Area of Southeast Michigan that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdraw any consideration of moving its Large Lakes Research Station from its only Wayne County site at its current location on Grosse Ile to a proposed site in Ann Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the EPA is to protect human health and safeguard natural environment and any proposed relocation would delay responses to such incidents and result in increased risks to human health and environmental surroundings; and

WHEREAS, Large Lakes Research Station staff members provide valuable services to residents of Wayne County, especially the county's Downriver communities, including response to oil spills and release of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, Large Lakes Research Station contains staff from the EPA Region 5 Superfund Emergency Response Branch, Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office, Region 5 Criminal Investigation Division, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as support contractors; and

WHEREAS, data compiled shows the Emergency Response Branch has taken 475 emergency actions over the past 16 years, including 185 involving time-sensitive cleanups or environmental assessments within 25 miles of its Grosse Ile station. Seventy-three percent of environmental crimes prosecuted were in Southeast Michigan within a one-hour drive of the station; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes National Program Office is actively conducting environmental cleanup of the St. Clair, Rouge and Detroit rivers, the bodies of water easily accessible from Grosse Ile Township station. It is the only field office in the Great Lakes, protecting

the world's largest fresh water supply since the EPA was founded in 1970.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission on this 6th day of September, 2018 does hereby strongly oppose any closing, relocation or shift in services from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Large Lakes Research Station located in Grosse Ile Township, Michigan; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission requests that Region 5 of the Environmental Protection Agency retain the presence of its On-Scene Coordinator office at its present location in Grosse Ile Township to better protect residents of Downriver communities, and Wayne County, and the environment overall.

(2018-66-032)